

# ISLAMIC PRAYER



# NIKAH THE ISLAMIC MARRIAGE

## INTRODUCTION

The western world has so adulterated and perverted the concept of marriage that today this wonderful institution bears little or no resemblance to the original concept. The tragedy is that we, the Muslims are going out of our way to imitate the lifestyle of the West while we have at our disposal such wonderful guidance of the Holy Quraan and the Hadith of Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam.

Everyday we are confronted with new ideas, concepts and theories to such an extent that we cannot keep pace with the trends. We become so confused that we forget the teachings of the Quraan and Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam. We sacrifice Deen and Religion to follow the lifestyle of the Kuffaar, and thereby destroy our social structure which is supposed to be embedded in the wholesomeness of Islam.

We can see how the rot of the western world has crept into our lifestyle when we compare our lives and institutions with that of the lives of Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam and his Sahaba Radhiallahu anhum. Because we live in an open and free society we regard marriage very lightly, if only we as Muslims realize the full importance of Nikah.

## NIKAH.

Nikah is the start of an act of Ibaadat shared by two persons who willingly submit to the laws of Allah. It is the beginning of a shared companionship by a couple and their mutual respect for and adherence to the teachings of Deenul Islam. Nikah is an act

whereby you bind yourself to be responsible to Allah. It is a sacred and holy act and must be performed in a Musjid in front of witnesses. Islam does not regard marriage as a union between man and woman only for the gratification of sexual lust, but a social contract with wide and varied responsibilities and duties. It is not too much to say that the whole concept on the marriage relation in Islam is charged with spiritual and moral ideas. Through the matrimonial alliance the couple is brought close to each other physically, mentally and emotionally in an atmosphere surcharged with piety.

## CHOOSING A MARRIAGE PARTNER

The success or failure of a marriage depends on the couple; they make the marriage work or fail, it is up to them. If a couple look after their Deen, and Islam is the motivating factor in a marriage then there is every chance of success; for it is not based on material considerations.

Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said: "To a man the most beneficial thing in this world is a pious, saalih and obedient wife. If you wish to have a successful marriage then choose a wife who has Deen, for it is only she who can fulfill her obligations to her husband." Beauty and wealth may add temporary pleasure but it is a pious wife that will bring Noor and Barakat into the home. She will bear good and obedient children and she will be attentive to her husband's needs and requirements and she will also be considerate and protective of his possessions. Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam's advice to man is to seek a pious woman as his wife, and to women, piety is what Islam desires of her uppermost. A wife must help a husband to establish Deen in the home and thereby create a harmonious and happy family life. Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said: "When a proposal arrives from a prospective pious and respectable person, accept and get married. For if you do not do so, they shall be faced with much temptation and mischief in the



world." How accurately our Nabi Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam has forecast the problems of our age. Too often proposals are rejected because parents judge them on a worldly basis. The teachings of Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam are totally ignored and forgotten and the fact that Islamic injunctions cover every aspect of a Muslim's life is found to be inhibiting and burdensome. Proposals are scanned and if they conform to the worldly standards of wealth, looks, position and social standings then only are they considered a suitable match. Rejection of a proposal based on social consideration is inconsiderate and harmful. Imaam Maalik Rahmatullahid alaih stressed that a proposal be studied on the religiousness and piety of the proposer only, and if the boy or girl is a religious and pious person and comes from a respectable family then get them married, for their future and rizq is forthcoming from Allah only. Success in marriage follows those who submit to the teachings of Allah and His Rasul Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam while hardships, heartbreak and suffering follow those who submit to the temptations and desires of their worldly learning and succumb to the demands of their materially invested environmental requirements. For the rich to marry only the rich is no guarantee of a successful marriage. Even in the midst of poverty there shall be peace and harmony if the matrimonial rights are observed and loving attention is given to the details of Islam.

If a proposal is received it should be considered on merits of Deen and not Duniya. It is on the basis of Deen that the parents should look for somebody suitable for their son or daughter. Parents should choose wittingly. If one marries an irreligious girl with higher education, she will try to secularize the home atmosphere instead of making it religious and then quarrels regarding fine clothes and ornaments will ensue; she will not be able to give religious instruction to the children. In fact, she will have no time to pay attention to religious matters.

However, in our day and age the Muslim youth have no regard for

the teachings of the Shariah and are choosing their own marriage partners. They do not choose on merit of Deen but rather for love, looks, style and wealth and are thereby submitting to the temptations of worldly standards. We live in a free and mixed society but that does not mean that we have to live like the Kuffaar and Mushrikeen. We have the wonderful teachings of the Quran and our Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam whereby we can attain perfect harmony, love and respect in our household. Permanent marriages come from those that are strong in faith and conviction (Imaan and yaqeen) and firm in their fear of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'ala and very fearful of committing trespass or transgression. We wish to choose our own partners because our western indoctrinated minds rebel against what we consider to be a denial of our rights and privileges. We do not wish to be dictated to by the Shariah and anything that restricts our freedom we reject. That is why we have such a high divorce rate among the young Muslims of today. It is due to our weakness and ignorance, our lack of Imaan and laziness towards our Deen that is causing the breakdown in our marriages and will result in the ultimate destruction of the Muslim Ummat. Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said: "I have never seen anything give greater joy and meaning to the love between a couple than the institution of Nikah."

This Hadith makes it clear that love between a couple should only be borne out of the bonds of Nikah and that love out of marriage is illicit, improper, totally haraam and forbidden in Islam. The foolish period of romantic interlude prior to marriage as is practised by the Kuffaar is absolutely forbidden because it is most often disastrous. The Shariah says that this may sound ingenious to the human mind but it is a shallow philosophy, it also indicates a shallowness of faith, a weakness of Imaan and a lack of moral discipline, principle and character. These characteristics are a Muslim's most prized attributes, this lends us the character, morality and nobility to stand head and shoulders above the disbelieving people of this world. We should live a morally pure life, our characters should be the



character of our Nabi Mohammed Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam and of his Sahaba-e-Karaam Radhiallahu anhum.

This is how we should live, this is how we should walk, this is how we should act. And if we don't do these things according to his teachings then of course, we are a lost people.

However, if couples are choosing their own partners then the responsibility lies with the parents to see that their children are trained and knowledgeable about qualitative selection. They must be taught to select on merits of Deen, character and respectfulness and not to submit to worldly standards. If the proposer is suitable on the grounds of religiousness and piety, then get them married for their future and their provision lie in the hands of Allah Ta'ala.

## ENGAGEMENTS

Hadhrat Ali Radhiallahu anhu very bashfully approached Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam directly for the hand of Hadhrat Faatimah Radhiallahu anha in marriage. The command of Allah Ta'aala was immediately revealed and Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam accepted the proposal.

At the time, the age of Hadhrat Faatimah Radhiallahu anha was fifteen and a half years and that of Hadhrat Ali Radhiallahu anhu twenty one. After accepting Hadhrat Ali's Radhiallahu anhu proposal Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam ordered Hadhrat Anas Radhiallahu anhu: "O Anas, go and call Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthmaan, Talhaa, Zubair and a group from among the Ansaar."

The people sent for by Nabi-e-Kareem Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam presented themselves and Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam recited a khutbah and performed the Nikah. The Mehr (dowry) was fixed a 400 mithqaal silver, the equivalent of which in rands will fluctuate according to the current rate of silver. The Ulama should be consulted just prior to the Nikah in order to determine its evaluation in rands. This mehr is now known as Mehr-e-Faatimi.

After the nikah, Rasulullah sallallahu alaihi wa sallam sent Hadhrat Faatima Radhiallahu anhu to Hadhrat Ali's home. Hadhrat Ali Radhiallahu anhu thereafter fulfilled the sunnat of the Wallmah feast. The following were the foods served at the Wallmah: some corn bread, some dates and some sweetmeats. Such was the simplicity of the wedding of the beloved daughter of Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam, the princess of both worlds. The rigmarole, frills and fancies attendant upon present day proposals and engagements were totally absent. No special gathering, venue or time etc. was contemplated nor was any hue and cry raised about the Nikah. It is thus Sunnat to merely gather some close relatives and others without any fuss or bother and proceed with the Nikah quietly and with dignity. Unlike the Muslim marriages of today which are accompanied with a multitude of un-Islamic and haraam customs and activities.

If an engagement was of any significance or importance in Islam, would Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam have deprived his beloved daughter of this privilege? Engagements have absolutely no basis in Islam.

It is a typical example of a Western innovation rearing its ugly head into our Muslim lives. An engagement is merely an unnecessary expense to appease our morally corrupt, western indoctrinated inflated egos. Lavish spending is incurred: first of all on parties for families in order to fix the dates for these various occasions. Then the engagement party, where no expense is spared with the main purpose being to display wealth and status and to impress family and friends. Expensive gifts are exchanged by the parties, and grand parties are held at grand halls.

This is, my dear brothers and sisters in Islam, a sinful innovative ritual.

What has happened to the simplicity and humility that was so characteristic of our Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam and his Sahaba Radhiallahu anhum?



The problem with the Muslims of today is that we have thrown the Sunnat practices overboard completely and we have instead adopted too many Christian practices, as is evident in the way we conduct our everyday lives. The mere fact that we indulge in practices such as engagements, etc. which have no basis in Islam is enough evidence to prove just how westernised we have become. At these engagement parties the engaged couple meet at a public gathering where the boy holds the girl's hand and slips a ring onto her finger whilst the two look romantically at each other. This act is void of modesty and is a flagrant violation of the Quranic law of Purdah. It is an evil innovation of the Godless West, and those in it should take cognizance of Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam's stern warning that: "Those who imitate others will rise on the day of Judgment as one of them." Thus a young couple starts off their future together, firstly the elaborate engagements procedures and then follows the unlimited courtship periods in order to become better acquainted with each other.

Long drawn out engagements usually end in affairs in our society. When a proposal is accepted we get the couple engaged until such time when they feel they know the other well enough, or that there is sufficient time to prepare for the outrageous Western orientated wedding or perhaps until the couple have enough money to satisfy their material desires. They don't make Tawakkul on Allah Ta'ala to provide for them because their needs and desires surpass the teachings and practices of Islam.

The slaughter of Islamic morals and principles is encouraged by parents who allow the young couple to meet frequently and also to go out together in blatant violation of the Sunnah of Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam. These extremely dangerous divergences from traditional Islamic precepts are becoming more and more common and their perpetrators more and more shameless.

A question arises as to whether it is permissible for an engaged couple to go out and be on their own, in other words to court freely. Islam is a religion of purity and chastity and in turn poses the question that can a young couple guarantee the Shariah that if they go out together prior to Nikah they will not commit mischief. Can the teachings of Islam be observed by such a couple without

infringing them. The couple says that they feel they can observe the teachings. But the Shariah says no. Islam wants a total guarantee, but they can give no guarantee because Islam is a religion of purity and of 100% rules and regulations so there can be no compromising. Shaytaan possesses persuasive powers and turns this relationship of theirs into an obsession for both. They are completely blinded by their feeling and cannot resist each other.

Islam says, get them married quickly, don't let such behaviours carry on. This will cause the destruction of the Muslim Ummah.

Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said: "Mischief and temptation will result, so avoid it." Rather let them be penniless and get them married, Allah will provide for them. This obsession of theirs makes them vulnerable and they easily and unwittingly commit transgression.

Such a marriage will never be successful because of this psychological disruption - the discovery of a weakness within them to submit to evil and sin. That marriage will not be built on purity, it is borne on a platform of fragility and infirmity and offers no defence and little resistance to this cunning and intrigue-ridden world. A lot of heartache and embarrassment will be saved if we heed the teachings of Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam who said:

"When a couple is interested, the responsibility of the parents is to get them married." For the vows of Nikah make halaal for them what is otherwise forbidden and haraam. What better way for them to fulfil the need to be together always and forever to express their love Islamically through the institution of Nikah. Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam expresses the contentment and enjoyment which Nikah brings to him personally. We see how happy, joyful and glad he feels when two people from amongst his Ummat decide to increase the Ummah by means of Nikah.



The kuffaar in this age have opted for a trial period before marriage as a possible solution to the high rate of divorce in their society. But still 70% of their marriages end in divorce and is on the increase. There has got to be some reasons for this, and the reason is that they have no Shariah rulings to follow. We, as Muslims have rules and as long as we stick to the Shariah we won't go wrong, and the moment we deviate from these Shariah rulings then we find ourselves in the gutter with the Kuffaar whom we try to imitate. Unfortunately we can see this happening everyday, we only have to look at the high rate of divorce among the Muslim youth of today. We must not be blind to this reality.

If we follow the ways of the western world then we have only ourselves to blame for our downfall.

Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said: "Nikah is my way he who turns away from my way is not of my Ummah, he is not of me." Live together and be together through Nikah.

## WEDDING INVITATIONS

In recent years more and more innovatory and satanic western practices have been inculcated into Muslim weddings. Among these are the European orientated fashions of printing expensive, pictorially-embossed wedding invitations and "thank-you" cards. A great deal of expense and trouble is incurred and hundreds of rands are squandered in the process of upholding and intensifying these senseless, soul-destroying procedures.

The recipients of the cards generally discard them after perusal thereby showing disrespect to the Quranic inscriptions that normally appear thereon.

The Shariah of Islam advocates that a marriage be announced, and this must be done in the least expensive manner and in a manner that fits the Shariah requirement of minimum expense. Rasulullah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam instructed his Ummah on the importance of accepting invitations and attending the wedding ceremonies.

Our Nabi sallallahu alaihi wa sallam has laid down definite guidelines as to the type of functions Muslims should not attend:-

1. When there is doubt about the purity of the food, i.e. that haraam food might be served;
2. When only the wealthy and influential people are invited. The worst of feasts are those to which the poor and underprivileged are not invited:



3. When a person expects harm to be done to his dignity and honour;

4. When the host has an ulterior motive for inviting a person such as to win his favour, or to seek his assistance and help in an unworthy project;

5. When un-Islamic, anti-Shariah and haraam activities are to take place, e.g. free mixing of males and females, extravagant feasts, etc.

Where the Islamic and Sunnah practices are floundered, no Muslim should partake in such a gathering. These are some of the causes of degeneration in the Muslim Ummah. We tend to forget our duties and responsibilities because we are too occupied with worldly affairs which only drives us further and further from Haqqul Islam.

Weddings, Walimah, Aqiqah, etc, are occasions of happiness and should not lead to gatherings that are cursed by Allah and his Rasool sallallahu alaihi wa sallam and the Malaikas. Why turn such important and holy occasions into ones of boast, pride, and self-acclaim in the duniya with severe punishment in the hereafter.

## PRE-WEDDING FEASTS AND CEREMONIES

It is customary for Muslims to have enormous feasts and ceremonies in the week preceeding the actual Nikah ceremony. These feasts and ceremonies have no basis in Islam and is reminiscent of the times of Jahiliyyah (ignorance). The lavish and sumptuous feasts arranged in Kuffaar style on these occasions are motivated only by pride, vanity and mutual rivalry, i.e. vying with one another. Such motives are baneful and it is not lawful for

Muslims to attend such feasts. About such feasts, Hadrat Shah Waliullah Rahmatullahid alaih says in his kitaab "The people of jaahiliyyah (ignorance) competed with one another in pride. Each one attempted to outstrip the other. Wealth was thus expanded for this purpose and for nothing else. In this attitude was malice, corruption and the destruction of wealth for no beneficial purpose. Their expanding of wealth (in such sumptuous feasts) was in sheer obedience to the call of the carnal nafs. It is therefore incumbent to shun such acts and villify them so as to close this avenue of corruption., and the best way of doing so, is to abstain from eating the food of such a person."

## MEHNDI CEREMONIES

Here again a great amount of trouble and expense is incurred over acts that are counter-productive of Islamic ethical and moral values. We find that during all the commotion and feasting we neglect our souls of its spiritual food, i.e. Namaaz. We are so engrossed in preparation for a Sunnat act (marriage) that we forget our Fardh obligations. It will be noticed that all of our malpractices and evil innovations have been copied from the West and from Hinduism and have completely destroyed the beautiful ethnics of Islam.

All the time and energy spent in the elaborate preparations for the wedding could well be utilised to teach both the parties the duties and responsibilities of married life.

## KITCHEN PARTIES

Following the western trend, it has become customary for friends of the bride to arrange kitchen-tea parties. While the giving of presents to the married couple is not harmful, it should not be regarded as a dire necessity. The arrangement of such parties and



the exchanging of gifts are merely additional expenses. If, we Muslims go on imitating the West in its social manners, its dressing, its laws and all the other "outward" expressions of its civilisation, then we automatically make Western social concepts and aesthetic notions our own, with the result that Islam will be deprived not only of its society-shaping function but will also cease to be our spiritual and ethical guideline and it will cause complete eradication of Islam from our lives.

## OVEREATING - THE CAUSE OF EVERY DISEASE

Today there is a hue and cry about the prevalence of diseases but no one, it seems, pays heed to the main cause - overeating. From the point of view of the Shariah such eating comes under the order of abomination. (Makrooh)

At wedding feasts much time and money is spent in the preparation of lavish, exquisite meals where people merely come to indulge in overeating and many times left over dishes go to waste when there are so many starving people in the world.

It is reported that the Messenger of Allah Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said: "A Muslim eats for one intestine while an infidel eats to fill seven intestines." A Muslim eats to satisfy his hunger but the infidel eats to satisfy all the seven desires. Hence the mark of a perfect Muslim is that he takes food as per need just to assuage hunger, and this is his intention while sitting down to eat ought to be that if he acquires strength and vitality by eating, he would use it to discharge Allah's and His slaves' rights, with such intention his eating too would become an act of devotion.

## WEDDINGS

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam said: "The most fulfilling, richly rewarding and blessed Nikah of all, is the one which has the least burdens, encumbrance and inconveniences.

Islamic rules and practices are simple, uncomplicated and easy to follow. Of all religions Allah Ta'aala has made the rules and injunctions of Islam the simplest of all and yet Islam is the most accepted by Allah Ta'aala than all the other religions. The Deen of Islam is easy to follow, nothing is complicated, no burden is placed on the followers. It is so simple yet we find it very difficult. Insubstantive traditions and zealous innovations which complimentary to appearances make Nikah difficult and complicated procedures and they are damaging to the Sunnah of Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam in barakat and blessings. Islam says the best Nikah is the simplest, but we try to make it the most complicated. Our Nabi Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam and the Sahaba Radhlallahu Anhu had wealth but their Nikahs were the simplest. Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam said that if we are going to make our marriage ceremonies complicated then we are going against his teachings and his rules.

Many families observe the correct rules and practices of Islam, salaah, sunnah, etc. but when it comes to weddings in the family then we seem to acquire a special dispensation to indulge in certain contraventions of Shariah of Islam. This ridiculous belief seems to be spreading so fast that it has become the norm and the rule rather than the exception to have grand weddings. We disregard the Shariah and do things according to Western conventional practices and thereby we are not only destroying the future of our children's lives but we are telling Allah that for this joyous and pleasurable occasion we will do it according to the way



the world wants it and not according to His way. When we celebrate we don't seem to keep our presence of mind. leave alone obedience to the Shariah. We simply go overboard in our excitement and happiness and not only is there a tremendous waste of time, food and money but also terrible confusion and sometimes quarrels between two parties. All these things rather than cementing two families together creates bitterness and bad blood relations between them.

Thus marriage, which is meant to unite two families, becomes the cause of disunity amongst them. Moreover, on account of wrong customs and large expenses, loans are taken on interest whereby prosperity (barakat) goes away and troubles multiply. Those who spend lavishly on marriages are divested on their land property, entangled in interest bearing loans and crushed under the debt of society they ruin their worldly as well as religious life. On the other hand if the marriage is performed according to the order of the Holy Prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam with the least possible expenses, barakat and Allah's mercy descend upon the parties and the relations of the two families become agreeable and strong. Love and affection develop between the two families as well as between husband and wife. The children that are born cultivate and imbibe religiousness and Deen. Aloofness from wrong social customs makes life comfortable and pleasant.

Tragically we are unaware that this is, the cause of our ruin. For the sake of merely displaying our status and greatness, for the reason that others may speak well of us, we incur unnecessary and large expenses even though we have to bear them alone.

Marriage in Islam is a responsibility affixed upon the couple, their respective families and the Muslim Society. Each has a role to play because it is a social reality. At the base lies the supreme factor. Marriage is a family affair. It is not what we say that means anything, what we do is what really counts. Our actions and

practices are our Islam. Our beloved Nabi Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam revealed upon us to be miniature models. He himself is referred to by Allah as the "MODEL". He taught us the eternal social connection in marriage 'BRIDE - BRIDEGROOM - This connection has to be processed. The procession takes a lifetime. It is quite understandable against their creative reality, why Islam violently opposes Arabian night splashes of wild-spending's, festivities, hired venues, Hollywood stages and the billion-calorie foods. We must go back to the simple golden rules of Islam:-

- \* Simplicity and brevity --- even if Allah has given you wealth;
    - \* No sermonizing --- even if customs demand it
    - \* No fashion --- even if women clamor for them
- Let the marriage start and end at the Musjid.

## WEDDING RECEPTIONS

After the Nikah we then proceed with the colourful wedding ceremonies and tastefully decorated luncheons accompanied by deliciously prepared foods and desserts.

What is deplorable, is the practice of subjecting the bride to a most humiliating display on an elaborately prepared stage after clothing her in an exquisite revealing wedding gown and obliterating all her natural beauty with western cosmetics. To ensure perfection in the scrupulously observed rituals of the West, the bride is provided with a retinue of bridesmaids, flowergirls and page boy, with their faces similarly disfigured with the same object of attracting the maximum of lustful stares. This slaughter of Islamic morals and principles by no means ends here because another very indecent practice copied from the West is the appearance of the married couple together on the stage after the Nikah. Here the new husband presents his bride with a wedding ring and kisses her, and that, in full view of the hundreds of guests, and then in a growing number of cases allows his friends to kiss her too. This is indeed



the Total and Tragical destruction of Islamic modesty and shame. What are we heading for and what do we hope to achieve! The matter gets more serious by the day. What kind of policy and principles are we following? The nikah is performed in the masjid where we please Allah and his Rasool Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam and then we please Shaitaan in the halls. Are Allah and Rasool Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam to be found and remembered only in the masjid? We are sitting on the wings of a disastrous course and where will it all end? Because Nikah is the start of a couple's future together, and we start it off on the wrong footing. There is no hope in the worldly ways, our only hope of success lies in the Islamic way as taught and portrayed by our Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam. The most blessed Nikah is the one in which all the Laws of Shariah are fully observed and shame and modesty which should exist between strange men and women is strictly adhered to. Not for us the way of the Kuffaar.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

The bride, sitting on the stage like a waxed figurine, all glamorous and tantalizing and posing in this way and that while all these farcical and soul destroying scenes are being "shot" for posterity by specially appointed and professionally equipped "video" and photography teams. Besides, the great expense incurred in the taking of the photographs, photography itself has been condemned by Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam whether they are to be screened on a television, hung up or kept in an album for remembrance. The irrefutable verdict of Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam is "Verily, the house with pictures is not visited by the Malaika." Ibn Abbas Radhiallahu Anhu narrated that he, on another occasion heard Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam say, "Whoever makes a picture, surely Allah will punish him until he throws life therein, but he would not be able to infuse life therein at any time."

## MUSIC

Islam is not a totally solemn and absurd religion, Islam does permit lightheartedness and happiness on occasions - what Islam frowns upon with intolerance is the negative aspect of enjoyment and pleasure and this it does with perfect justification. For wherever man has gone to excesses, he has easily committed sin and transgression. This is our weakness, we too easily give in to all kinds of material delights, and this is why Islam restricts great joy. It is to restrain the animal element of man and to prevent us from destabilising ourselves. Extension to the Shariah or teachings of Islam are Bidah which is totally forbidden and haraam. The reason being that Bidah has a habit of becoming inconclusive, one has to keep adding to make it attractive and to keep up its appeal. Whereas Islam is complete and does not require modification and adjustments.

On such act of Bidah is the introduction of music and qawwall at Muslim weddings and celebrations. Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam has said: "Verily Allah Ta'aala sent me as a mercy and a guide unto the worlds and Allah commanded me with the destruction of musical instruments." Listening and singing and music is sin; and sitting at it is fisq (rebellion) and to derive pleasure from it is an act of Kufr. Allah has cursed the musician and the audience."

## INTERMINGLING OF SEXES

The occasion of marriage is a happy one and a time of joy in any home. It is the start of a new life with new beginnings and the most sacred moments in a person's life. Therefore preserve it with the honor and dignity it deserves. Those who attend the wedding are there to congratulate the couple and to wish them well. It is a festive occasion and calls for some kind of celebration, as long as that happiness is expressed within the bounds of Shariah.



As soon as matters get out of hand, destructive elements enter that marriage and we destroy its beginning by shameless conduct of the western world. The invisible forces which normally operate in our favor (i.e. the Malaikas) are dismayed and give way and thus no blessing and barakat descends on that gathering. The Malaika in all the seven skies rejoice and make dua for the Nikah of a mumin but when we go out of bounds in our rejoicing and the rules of Shariah are trampled upon, then the duas of the countless Malaika are perhaps turned into curses. One of the most flagrant violations of the Shariah of Islam is the incessant intermingling of men and women at Muslim functions. The laws of purdah which Islam advocates so strongly are completely ignored and the immodest and shameless habits and customs of western society are strongly adhered to. The ravishing beauty, sweet fragrance and revealing fashions and hairdo's are the order of the day. This gives rise to easy mixing, and good opportunity for loose talk and shameless behaviour by our Muslim men and women.

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam is reported to have said: "Every religion has a characteristic, and the characteristic of Islam is Haya (modesty)." He also said: "Verily, modesty and faith are inter-related if one of them is taken out, the other goes away simultaneously." That is to say that if modesty departs, Imaan declines and goes out to that extent. Yet many Muslims are inclined to take a most complacent attitude toward these moral and social crimes. They say: "we are young and healthy, so what is the hurry." We will seek taubah when we are old and infirm. Thus they continue to trample the laws of Islam with impertinence. This is an extremely dangerous trend, of which we have been warned by the Holy Quran in these words:

*"Repentance is accepted by Allah only from those who do evil in ignorance, then turn quickly in repentance to Allah. These are they towards whom Allah relenteth. Allah is ever knower, wise."*

*The forgiveness is not for those who do ill deeds until, when death attendeth upon one of them, he saith: Lo I repent now, nor yet for those who die while they are disbelievers. For such we have prepared a painful doom. (4:17,18).*

It is unfortunate that the modern society has come to acquire a maddening passion for such mixed "entertainments" which are not only sexualities. The "emancipated" woman has been tempted from all sides and has been reduced by the modern ways of life to abandon her right place in the world. The fashionable dresses of today serve no other purpose but to exploit, exaggerate and embellish the bodies of the women who wear them. It is shocking to observe this dangerous trend of trespassing the limits of decency by our Muslim sisters, and one is undoubtedly of the impression that these ladies in extreme and ailing fashions are actually on a parade wildly displaying their bodies.

Woman according to Islam, was created to produce and nurse life. She was therefore endowed with numerous delicate qualities and relieved of outdoor activities. Hers was to be the life of calm and restraint. She was destined to devote her life and energy in the rearing of a nation and the molding of society. A nation begins with an infant and an infant starts with a mother. The fact is that whatever religious or secular progress or perfection men have achieved, the women have always had a great nobility, honour and glory that the Islamic Shariah has bestowed upon her. However, today, with the dispensing of Hijaab (veil) and the donning of fashionable and immodest apparel and the attendant laxity in upholding the Islamic demand of segregation of the sexes, the high standard of morality as well as the characteristic modesty and honour of dignity and self-respect of our Muslim women have become extinct.



As soon as matters get out of hand, destructive elements enter that marriage and we destroy its beginning by shameless conduct of the western world. The invisible forces which normally operate in our favor (i.e. the Malaikas) are dismayed and give way and thus no blessing and barakat descends on that gathering. The Malaika in all the seven skies rejoice and make dua for the Nikah of a mumin but when we go out of bounds in our rejoicing and the rules of Shariah are trampled upon, then the duas of the countless Malaika are perhaps turned into curses. One of the most flagrant violations of the Shariah of Islam is the incessant intermingling of men and women at Muslim functions. The laws of purdah which Islam advocates so strongly are completely ignored and the immodest and shameless habits and customs of western society are strongly adhered to. The ravishing beauty, sweet fragrance and revealing fashions and hairdo's are the order of the day. This gives rise to easy mixing, and good opportunity for loose talk and shameless behaviour by our Muslim men and women.

Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam is reported to have said: "Every religion has a characteristic, and the characteristic of Islam is Haya (modesty)." He also said: "Verily, modesty and faith are inter-related if one of them is taken out, the other goes away simultaneously." That is to say that if modesty departs, Imaan declines and goes out to that extent. Yet many Muslims are inclined to take a most complacent attitude toward these moral and social crimes. They say: "we are young and healthy, so what is the hurry." We will seek taubah when we are old and infirm. Thus they continue to trample the laws of Islam with impertinence. This is an extremely dangerous trend, of which we have been warned by the Holy Quran in these words:

*"Repentance is accepted by Allah only from those who do evil in ignorance, then turn quickly in repentance to Allah. These are they towards whom Allah relenteth. Allah is ever knower, wise."*

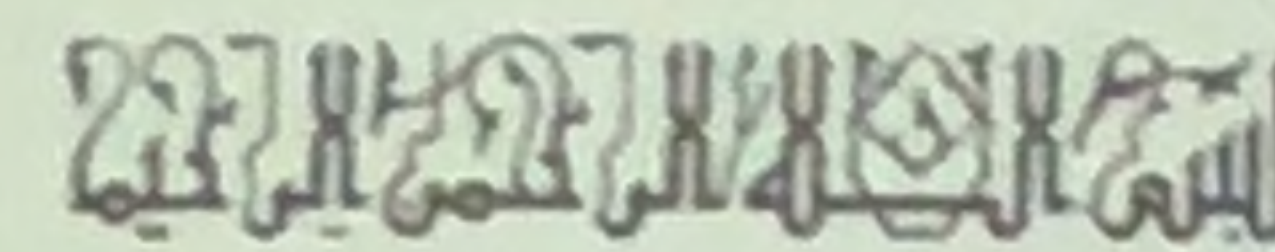
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# Istikhaarah



## WHAT IS ISTIKHAARAH?

Istikhaarah is to seek guidance from Allah when one is faced with a problem to which no solution is apparent.

Whenever a person is faced with a difficult problem, or becomes hesitant in making a decision and his knowledge of the matter is insufficient to guide him then after seeking advice from trusted friends he should turn to Allah and beseech His grace. He should willingly and with an open heart and mind supplicate for divine guidance and ask for direction so that the problem is solved in his own best interest. The Duaa at such an occasion is called Istikhaarah.

Istikhaarah is in fact an invaluable teaching of Rasulullah ﷺ with which the Muslims have been favoured. This blessing could give solace to many for all times to come. It is related in the Hadith that Rasulullah ﷺ use to teach the Istikhaarah to the Sahaabah RA like the Quraan is taught to children. In another Hadith it is stated that "He does not fail who makes Istikhaarah and he does not regret who makes Mashwarah (consultation).

In the Masnoon Istikhaarah, after one has carried out his responsibility as best as one can, one should hand over the entire matter and oneself to the limitless knowledge of Allah. By resorting to Istikhaarah one is now retrieved of making a decision on ones own.

Whenever counsel is sought from a respectable and experienced person, it is expected that he will give good advice and assist to the best of his ability. Similarly Istikhaarah is to seek counsel with Allah. Who can give better counsel than the all Knowing and Merciful Allah? Once Istikhaarah is made then Allah will surely guide him to do what is best for him.

Now there can be no perplexity. Only that will happen which Allah wills and which is good for ones own sake though one may not be able to see it immediately. It is not necessary that one must experience or see an evident change or a vision. Allah alone knows what is best for His servants. It is related in the Hadith that "Success and good tidings for the son of Adam (Insaan) is in performing Istikhaarah and his misfortune lies in not making Istikhaarah."



## METHOD OF ISTIKHAARAH

When making Istikhaarah begin with performing two Rak'ahs Nafil Namaaz. Then with all sincerity recite the following Duaa:

## NOTES

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْتَخِيرُكَ بِعِلْمِكَ وَأَسْتَقْدِرُكَ بِقُدْرَتِكَ  
وَأَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ الْعَظِيمِ \* فَإِنَّكَ تَقْدِرُ وَلَا  
أَقْدِرُ \* وَتَعْلَمُ وَلَا أَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتَ عَلَّامُ الْغُيُوبِ \* اللَّهُمَّ  
إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ خَيْرٌ لِي فِي دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي  
وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي \* فَاقْدُرْهُ لِي وَيَسِّرْهُ لِي ثُمَّ بَارِكْ لِي  
فِيهِ \* وَإِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَنَّ هَذَا الْأَمْرَ شَرٌّ لِي فِي  
دِينِي وَمَعَاشِي وَعَاقِبَةِ أَمْرِي \* فَاصْرِفْهُ عَنِّي وَاصْرِفْنِي  
عَنْهُ \* وَأَقْدِرْ لِي الْخَيْرَ حَيْثُ كَانَ ثُمَّ أَرْضِنِي بِهِ \*

Trans.: O! Allah. Behold I ask You the good through Your Knowledge, and ability through Your Power, and beg (Your favour) out of Your infinite Bounty. For surely You have Power; I have none. You know all; I know not. You are the Great Knower of all things.

O! Allah If in Your Knowledge this matter be good for my faith (Deen), for my livelihood, and for the consequences of my affairs, then ordain it for me, and make it easy for me, and bless me therein.

But if in Your Knowledge, this matter be bad for my faith, for my livelihood, and for the consequences of my affairs, then turn it away from me, and turn me away therefrom, and ordain for me the good wherever it be, and cause me to be pleased therewith.

While reciting this Duaa when one reaches HAAZAL AMR (this matter) at both places he should think of his problem.

May Allah guide and assist us all.



## NOTES

عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ  
لَمْ تَرَ لِلْمُتَحَابِّينِ مِثْلَ النِّكَاحِ (ابن ماجه)

It is related from Hazrat Ibn Abbas Radhiyallahu Anhu that  
Rasulullah Salallahu Alayhi Wasallam said: "For two  
mutual lovers, you will find nothing like marriage."

عَنْ أَنَسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ إِذَا  
تَزَوَّجَ الْعَبْدُ فَقَدْ اسْتَكْمَلَ نِصْفَ الدِّينِ فَلْيَتَّقِ اللَّهَ فِي  
نِصْفِ الْبَاقِي (البیهقی)

It is reported from Hazrat Anas Radhiyallahu Anhu that  
Rasulullah Salallahu Alayhi Wasallam said: "When a man  
has married, he has indeed made his religion half perfect.  
Then let him fear Allah for the remaining half."



